



Airdrop Certification Program

What It Is:

Consider all the supplies that must travel along with the airborne soldier: ammunition, weapons, missiles, vehicles. Can each piece of equipment withstand the unique stresses of airdrop? We test and certify how equipment is loaded, transported and delivered by airdrop.

Why It's Needed:

Our Certification Program keeps the airdrop process safe and reliable.

How It Works:

Certification is an exhaustive process, during which we test:

- the strength of any fittings, which are used to attach items like tiedowns and recovery parachutes);
- the cushioning materials that absorb the impact of landing on the ground;
- the rigging;
- the load's distribution in the aircraft, using Natick's Roller Test Facility;
- the impact of a simulated airdrop, using Natick's Drop Tower.

For the final test: the item — rigged according to the trial procedures we've developed — is dropped three times from a U.S. Air Force aircraft.

Benefits:

Soldier Safety... Certification ensures that the crew of the delivery aircraft is never put at risk by the airdrop process.

Point of Contact:

Airdrop/Aerial Delivery Liaison

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